

June 25, 2024

1905 E. Huebbe Parkway • Beloit, Wisconsin 53511-1842 • 608.364.2200 www.BeloitHealthSystem.org

Ms. Debra Savage Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board 525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Project 24-018, NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital, Roscoe, Illinois

Dear Chair Savage,

I am writing to express my strong support for the neighborhood hospital initiative currently under review. As a podiatrist serving our community, I specialize in diagnosing and treating a wide range of foot and ankle conditions, including fractures, diabetic foot care, sports injuries, and arthritis-related foot problems.

In my practice, I prioritize comprehensive foot health to enhance mobility and overall well-being for my patients. I work closely with individuals to create personalized treatment plans, provide preventive care, perform necessary surgical procedures, and offer rehabilitation services to ensure optimal recovery and long-term foot health.

There are occasions when my patients require urgent medical attention for acute foot injuries, infections, or diabetic foot complications. Quick access to specialized podiatric care and diagnostic facilities is crucial in these situations to prevent complications and promote swift recovery.

Establishing an emergency department and hospital at the NorthPointe campus, as proposed by Beloit Health System, will significantly bolster our community's capacity to deliver timely and specialized podiatric care. The initiative acknowledges the pressing need for accessible healthcare services and presents a pragmatic solution by repurposing existing space within an established facility. This approach enables the provision of essential medical resources without the substantial costs associated with constructing a larger hospital.

I firmly believe that Beloit Health System's neighborhood hospital initiative will profoundly benefit our community by enhancing access to specialized podiatric care, emergency services, and overall healthcare. Therefore, I wholeheartedly endorse this proposal and encourage the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to support its advancement.

Please approve this project for the benefit of our community.

Sincerely,

James Whelan, DPM

Podiatry

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